

# Claims

- [c1] That which is claimed is:
1. A system performing a search query comprising:  
having user choose a first group of constraints; ???????  
having the user choose additional constraints;  
searching based on the first group of constraints;  
reviewing results of said search;  
determining whether or not to search using said additional constraints;  
having if it is determined searching based on additional constraints; and  
providing the results of said search.
  - [c2] 2. A system according to claim 1 in which includes having said user access the system using the Internet.
  - [c3] 3. A system according to claim 1 in which includes having said user access the system through a client-server relationship.
  - [c4] 4. A system according to claim 1 in which includes having said user enter constraint using an entry means.
  - [c5] 5. A system according to claim 4 in which having said entry means is entering text.



- [c6] 6. A system according to claim 4 in which having said entry means is a dialog box.
- [c7] 7. A system according to claim 4 in which having said entry means is a pick list.
- [c8] 8. A system according to claim 4 in which having said entry means is radio buttons.
- [c9] 9. A system according to claim 1 in which includes having said system search using all said first constraints and additional constraints.
- [c10] 10. A system according to claim 1 in which includes having said system search using subsets of said constraints, keeping intermediate results and checking the remaining constraints if needed.
- [c11] 11. A system according to claim 1 in which includes having said system search using one or more of a set of sampling, heuristic, genetic or other non-deterministic algorithm.
- [c12] 12. A system according to claim 1 in which includes relaxing, tightening or modifying the constraints before reporting said results.



- [c13] 13. A system according to claim 1 in which includes using new constraints.
- [c14] 14. A system according to claim 13 in which includes display said new constraints.
- [c15] 15. A system according to claim 1 in which includes returning the number of solutions for each subset of constraints.